

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees which includes the steps of:

- (a) the payor obtaining a digital image of each payee, and storing each such image in a suitable image format selected from the group consisting of
5 “.jpg”, “.bmp”, and “.tif” formats;
- (b) said payor assigning a unique filename to each said digital image which is uniquely associated with each payee;
- (c) storing each said digital image in digital format on a computer storage medium of said payor, said images each being stored by said payor using
10 each said unique filename, each said filename being stored in a database which associates each said filename with the digital image of each said payee;
- (d) selecting payee data for check printing, said data coming from said database and including, for each payee, said unique filename;
- (e) printing checks for each said payee, each of said checks being
15 printed with said payee data, said payee data including each payee's name and the amount of the check, and each said check being printed with an image of the payee each said image being retrieved in digital format from said digital computer storage medium using said unique filename as each said check is printed,

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whereby each check will include, in addition to the other information, a photographic image of the payee to whom such check was written and whereby a plurality of checks may be printed to any payee whose digital image has been stored on said computer medium, and whereby the order of printing such checks
5 need not be predetermined.

Claim 2 (Original): The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining a digital image is accomplished by taking a photograph using a digital camera.

Claim 3 (Original): The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining a digital image is accomplished by scanning a conventional photograph.

Claim 4 (Original): The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of assigning a unique filename is accomplished by using assigning a name uniquely associated with each said payee, such name being selected from the group consisting of the payee's social security number, the payee's employee identification number, and the key field in the database containing the payee's data.

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Claim 5 (Original): The method for providing personal identification on checks issued by a payor to payees of Claim 1 wherein the step of selecting payee data for check printing is accomplished by using data from each payee's data record to generate a filename which is uniquely associated with each said payee's image file.